Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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During our pastoral vacancy:

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: Our God patiently seeks fruits of faith.

Hymn: Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You 1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy O Chris-tians, lest the you, this world's vain plea and bold - ly strive for 2 a - far sure Cast and keep them that they 3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher ish, fall. foe de - stroy for Sa - tan has de - signed your you, Sav - ior's might. heav'n - ly trea sure. Be stead-fast in the whom you have pur-chased with your blood. nev - er per - ish a - gainst each foe you'll Wield God's Word, weap-on glo rious; а Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all Let new life us be giv that we may look to to en -4 all. God will set you o'er them be vic - to rious, for harm will hide faith you'll con-quer in fight. you. By the vou in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood. the prince of hell, Im - man - u - el! Fear not here is Take cour soul! ward to the goal! age, wea - ry Look for --Your Spir that we it on us pour may love you more, Sing The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield, ho - san na! Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done, hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free, θ and con - qu'rors hold the field. we as the crown of glo ry will be won. sing praise through all е ter ni ty.

In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

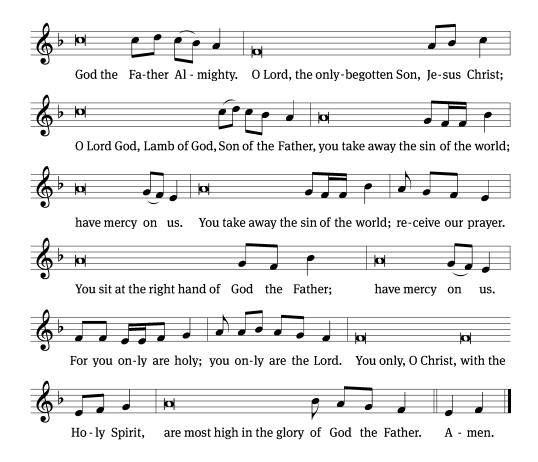
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Glory Be to God on High



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



THE WORD

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1–7

In an agricultural society, it's not surprising that results are described in terms of growing things. In our Isaiah passage, God describes looking for spiritual growth by using an analogy of a vineyard. The vintner does everything to make the vineyard produce the best grapes. Then he waits. In the end, the grapes are sour. So, he tears down his vineyard. In the same manner, God is patiently waiting for spiritual development. Yet, eventually there is judgement.

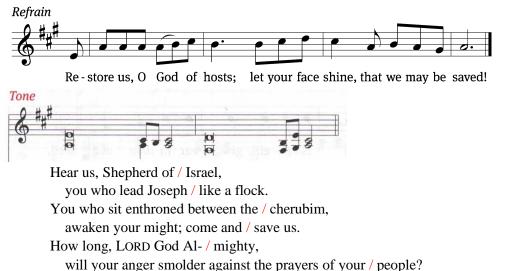
¹I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
²He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³"Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." ⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;

for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Restore Us



You have made us an object of derision to our / neighbors,

and our enemies / mock us. Refrain

Psalm 8oC

You transplanted a vine from / Egypt; you drove out the nations and / planted it. You cleared the / ground for it, and it took root and / filled the land. Why have you broken / down its walls so that all who pass by / pick its grapes? Return to us, God Al- / mighty! Look down from / heav'n and see! Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain* Text: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version; © 2001 Crossway a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712488; Tune: © 2006 Jeffrey N. Blersch. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712488; Tune: © 2006 Jeffrey N. Blersch.

Second Reading

In our first lesson, we looked at spiritual growth by the analogy of a vineyard. In this lesson, the Apostle Paul describes spiritual growth as constantly reaching toward a higher goal. How do we do that? We think and act according to who we are in Christ. We live drastically different lives than the people of this world who worship material things.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

In our Gospel reading, Jesus takes us back to a vineyard. Like the Isaiah passage, the landowner did everything needed to have a great vineyard. The landowner trusted this vineyard to others. What did they do? They produced grapes for themselves and even wanted to steal the vineyard. Does this sound familiar as we look at our world? The landowner waited patiently, but in the end, the evil tenants met a wretched end and other tenants moved in. Thinking spiritually, killing the Son doesn't lead to victory for evil, but unleashes both judgment and the marvelous grace of God.

³³"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

Ephesians 2:10

Philippians 3:12-21

Matthew 21:33–43

³⁵"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

" 'The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

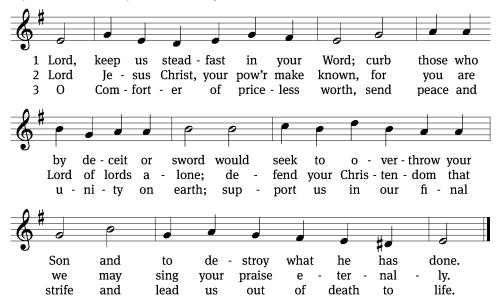
the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Sermon

Matthew 21:33-43

The Lord's Love Endures Even in Judgment

- A. How extraordinary his love is!
- B. How worthy of our fruit his love is!

Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace. **Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith. **Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws. Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

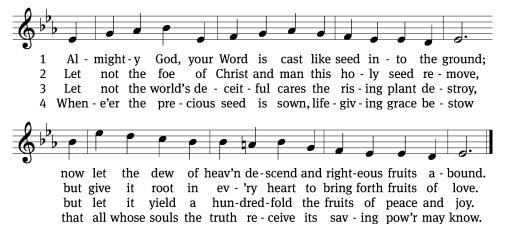
We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again. **Amen.**

Offering – The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to: Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Hymn: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

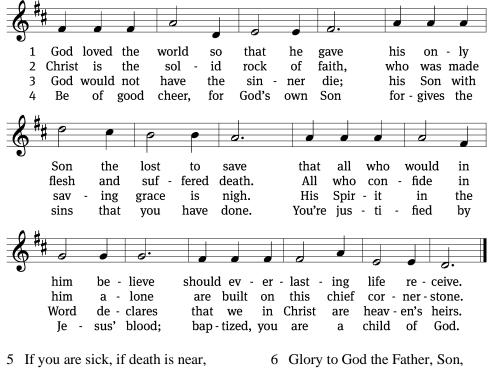
Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave



5 If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: and Holy Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!
6 Glory to and Holy To you, Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; be praise

 Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessèd Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Silent prayer – Announcements

Acknowledgments: Setting One from Christian Worship

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